

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2007

**Illinois Supreme Court Appoints Maureen Ward Kirby
to Fill Cook County Circuit Court Vacancy**

The Illinois Supreme Court has appointed Maureen Ward Kirby, a partner with the Chicago firm of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLP, to fill a judicial vacancy in Cook County Circuit Court.

Ms. Kirby was appointed to fill the at-large vacancy created by the retirement of Circuit Judge Michael T. Healy. She was sworn into judicial office today in Chicago by Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke.

The Supreme Court fills interim judicial vacancies under authority granted it by the Illinois Constitution. Ms. Kirby was found qualified by the Chicago Bar Association and a Judicial Evaluation Committee established by Justice Burke. Former Chief Justice Ben K. Miller is chair of the Evaluation Committee.

Ms. Kirby's appointment terminates December 1, 2008.

A highly regarded member of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd's Litigation Group, Ms. Kirby has concentrated her practice in complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts. She joined the firm in 1988 as a summer associate, became an associate in 1989 and was elected partner in 1996. She also served as a law clerk for the Honorable James H. Alesia of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Nancy E. Bertoglio, Bell, Boyd & Lloyd's Managing Partner, praised Ms. Kirby for her skill as a litigator and for her commitment to civic and charitable activities. "I have long admired Maureen as a talented and experienced attorney who, despite her busy work schedule, still finds time for her colleagues and her community. We will be fortunate to have a woman of her stature serving in our Circuit Court."

"We at Bell Boyd who have been so fortunate to work with Maureen on a daily basis are both delighted at this recognition of her outstanding abilities, and saddened to lose such a valued colleague. Our loss is the Circuit Court's great gain," said John W. Rotunno, who chairs Bell, Boyd & Lloyd's Litigation Group.

MORE

Supreme Court Appoints Kirby

Add One

Ms. Kirby has been an active member of her community, serving as an Executive Committee Member of the Rush University Medical Center Associates Board and as a Service Board Member of Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center.

She received her B. A. *magna cum laude* from Boston College in 1986 and her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1989. She is admitted to practice in Illinois, to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and is a member of the Trial Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

- 30-

(FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312/793-2323)